

THAMES RIVER FLOOD CONTROL

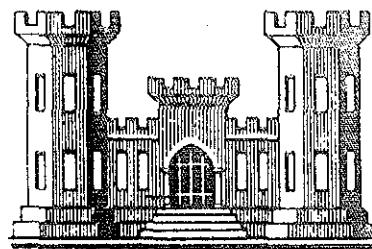
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WEST THOMPSON DAM & RESERVOIR

QUINEBAUG RIVER, CONNECTICUT

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 2

SITE GEOLOGY



U.S. Army Engineer Division, New England
Corps of Engineers Waltham, Mass.

JANUARY 1963

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407-670A

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, NEW ENGLAND
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
DIVISION ENGINEER

REFER TO FILE NO.

NEDGW

18 January 1963

SUBJECT: / West Thompson Dam and Reservoir, Quinebaug River,
Thames River Basin, Connecticut
Design Memorandum No. 2 - Site Geology /

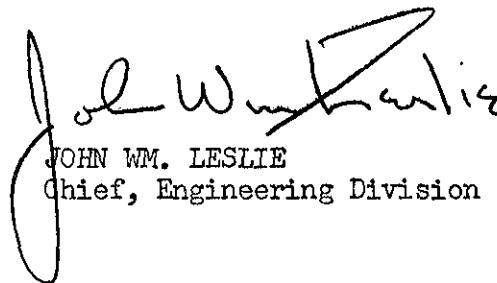
TO: Chief of Engineers
ATTN: ENGCW-EZ
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

In accordance with EM 1110-2-1150, there is submitted
Design Memorandum No. 2 - Site Geology, for the West Thompson
Dam and Reservoir, Quinebaug River, Thames River Basin, Con-
necticut.

FOR THE DIVISION ENGINEER:

1 Incl (10 cys)
Design Memo No. 2
Site Geology

JOHN WM. LESLIE
Chief, Engineering Division



FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

WEST THOMPSON DAM

QUINEBAUG RIVER

THAMES RIVER BASIN
CONNECTICUT

DESIGN MEMORANDA INDEX

<u>Number</u>		<u>Submission Date</u>	<u>Approved</u>
1	Hydrology and Hydraulic Analysis Preliminary	10 May 1962*	22 Jun 1962
	Final	20 Aug 1962	27 Sep 1962
2	Geology	18 Jan 1963	
3	Real Estate	28 Dec 1962	
4	Relocations	31 Oct 1962	12 Dec 1962
5	General Design	24 Aug 1962	28 Sep 1962
6	Embankment		
7	Concrete Materials		
8	Detailed Design of Structures	7 Dec 1962	
9A	Reservoir Management (Preliminary)		
9B	Reservoir Management (Final)		

*Initial submission in draft to secure approval of spillway design flood and top of dam.

WEST THOMPSON DAM AND RESERVOIR

Design Memorandum No. 2

Site Geology

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WEST THOMPSON DAM AND RESERVOIR

QUINEBAUG RIVER

THAMES RIVER BASIN

CONNECTICUT

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 2

SITE GEOLOGY

JANUARY 1963

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

1. The West Thompson Reservoir Project is located on the Quinebaug River in the Town of Thompson, Connecticut. The dam is located in the village of West Thompson, 2.0 miles upstream from the City of Putnam and about 1,000 feet upstream from the confluence of the Quinebaug and French Rivers.

2. The project structures and highway relocation are shown on the General Plan and Reservoir Map, Plate 2-1. The project consists of an earthfill dam approximately 2,550 feet long and 70 feet in height above the stream bed with a gated outlet works and a side channel spillway located in the right abutment. A low dike approximately 600 feet long will contain the reservoir at the saddle in the vicinity of Reardon Road, northeast of the dam.

B. GENERAL GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3. The project is located in the eastern upland area of Connecticut. The topography is of moderate relief and largely rock controlled with some modification by glacial erosion and deposition. Damming of the valleys by ice remnant blocks during

glacial recession resulted in glacial lake and ice contact deposition in the valleys and along the walls. Thin sandy glacial till deposits blanket the rock surface and in the valleys and lower sides is overlain by terrace and lacustrine deposits.

4. Bedrocks of the eastern uplands are metamorphics, principally gneisses and schists of paleozoic and earlier age which are locally granitized by igneous intrusions, largely along original sedimentary bedding planes.

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

5. The topography of the project site presents a moderate relief of approximately 300 feet. The Quinebaug River flows in a broad valley filled with glacial lake sediments mantled by more recent pervious, alluvial deposits. The left abutment consists of outwash and gravel terrace remnants to approximately elevation 330 underlain by a moderately compact glacial till directly overlying the bedrock surface. The right abutment consists of an outlying terrace remnant separated from the main valley by a deep saddle. The main valley wall is bedrock controlled with a variable mantle of glacial drift with an abundance of boulders and large blocks at the surface.

D. SURFICIAL AND SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS

6. Previous Investigations. Geological reconnaissance and seven borings and one foundation test trench were made in 1957 for the preparation of the Geology Appendix, in an "Interim Report on Review of Survey Thames River Basin," dated January 1958.

7. Current Investigations. A detailed geologic reconnaissance and limited seismic explorations were made in May 1962 to further determine the general surficial and subsurface conditions for planning of an exploration program of design scope. Design explorations by contract were initiated in August 1962. Initial borings on a proposed chute type spillway indicated unsatisfactory foundation conditions and the design was changed to the side channel type. Sufficient explorations have been completed to verify the present proposed design of structures and location of the major portions of materials for embankment fill. (See Plates 2-2 and 2-12) All foundation test borings were continuously sampled in overburden and bedrock was cored in a minimum penetration of 25-feet on the right abutment and 20-feet in the valley and left abutment area. One special sample boring was made adjacent to boring FD-5 in the valley section to obtain undisturbed samples for inspection and testing. Hydraulic pressure tests were conducted in borings on a proposed grout curtain along the spillway weir and where cut-off to bedrock will be made beneath the dam embankment. Investigations have been made in four areas to locate suitable impervious and random borrow materials by means of drive-sample borings, pits and hand auger borings.

8. Future Investigations. Foundation explorations will be made on highway and dike structures. Additional explorations will be made to further delineate quantities and types of borrow materials.

E. SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

9. At the damsite, the Quinebaug River flows on recent alluvial deposits of sands and gravels in a broad valley bordered by hills which rise 100 feet above the river. Large boulders and blocks up to 50 cubic yards in size are scattered over the right abutment area which is separated from the main valley by a steep sloped terrace remnant. The left abutment is dissected by an old tail race at valley grade with the abutment presenting a smoothly contoured surface to about elevation 330 where shallow rock is reflected in an irregular ground surface. (See Plate 2-2)

10. Bedrock exposed on the right abutment within the area of embankment and spillway and outlet structures is principally a granitized mica schist locally known as the Putnam gneiss formation. The rock structure displays a north-westerly strike which nearly parallels the spillway alignment with a foliation dip of 30° to 50° to the West. The prominent joint pattern has a strike of $N15^{\circ}$ to $20^{\circ}W$ and a dip to the east of 45° to 55° . (See Plate 2-3).

F. FOUNDATION CONDITIONS

11. Overburden on the right abutment is comprised of variable deposits of sandy till, overlain by sands, gravel and boulders in thickness varying from 45 feet in the terrace remnant riverward of the outlet works to 5 to 10 feet in the spillway approach channel. Large blocks scattered over the surface and in the overburden of the right abutment above elevation 325 are largely confined to

the area upstream of the centerline of the dam. (See Figure 1) This distribution in the spillway area is consistent with a sand stratum which, coupled with the general conformity of the bedrock surface, indicates a glacial spillway at approximately elevation 340. (See Plate 2-4) The sandy till which overlies the bedrock surface in thin pockets throughout the right abutment is apparently remnants of a former general distribution removed by discharging melt waters which have deposited sands and gravels over the bedrock surface. (See Plate 2-5) Deposition in the valley is in excess of 60 feet and consists of sandy till lying in thin pockets over the bedrock surface, blanketed by thick glacial lake deposits of stratified silts and sands which locally vary to highly micaceous zones and to zones of coarse sands. The surface of a continuous deposit of coarse sandy gravel forms the valley floor and varies from 10 to 20 feet in thickness. Buried, per-vious-filled old stream channels may possibly exist within the valley section but their presence has not been revealed or indicated by the explorations. The overburden of the left abutment is comprised of till, outwash and terrace remnant materials con-taining cobbles and boulders, averaging 15 to 20 feet in thickness and thinning at higher elevations. The general stratigraphic se-quence of the overburden in the dam foundation is shown on Plate 2-5.



OUTCROP (GNEISS) AT OUTLET WORKS INTAKE



BOULDERS ON SPILLWAY CENTERLINE

12. Bedrock as exposed in the right abutment area varies from a gneissic to massive granitic rock in the outlet approach channel (See Figure 1) along the river bank to a biotite schist highly metamorphosed and granitized in the vicinity of the spillway structures. Borings reveal the rock to be generally a granitized schist with zones of extensive granitization where the rock varies from a gneiss to granite. A slight to highly weathered and jointed condition prevails in the bedrock to a depth of 5 to 10 feet below the rock surface. (See Plates 2-5 and 2-6) In some areas, such as the northeast corner of the spillway weir and approach channel, the depth of weathering and jointing increases to approximately 15 feet. The trend of structural foliation nearly parallels the spillway structures and is generally N 50° to 60°W with a foliation dip at the surface of 30° to 55° to the west and generally becoming steeper with increasing depths. Random jointing occurs throughout the borings with the most persistent jointing being a steeply dipping strike to diagonal joint system. (See Page 2-3)

13. High water losses during drilling and extreme difficulty in installing pressure test equipment indicate an open rock condition which will require grouting to reduce seepage beneath structures. Particular high water losses were encountered in FD 46 of the left abutment, 12 gpm at 10 psi and in FD 40 on the north end of the spillway where losses of 12 gpm at 0 psi occurred. Conditions in other areas could not be determined because of inability to properly install and seat packers for satisfactory pressure tests.

14. The soundness of the rock varies with composition and structural foliation. Most of the rock below the zone of surface weathering and jointing will be fresh and hard. Principle failure surfaces will parallel the bedding planes which will vary in inclinations and orientation. Randomly oriented strike or dip joints are expected to be continuous and will have a strong influence on structural excavation where their location is coincident with the design slopes. Shallow rock excavations within the area of weathering and frequent jointing will result in rock slopes approaching 3 on 1 with somewhat steeper slopes expected on north-easterly facing slopes. Slopes in the deeper rock cuts are expected to approach 4 on 1 with steeper slopes possible where line drilling or other special excavation methods are utilized.

G. SUBSURFACE WATER.

15. A measurement of the level of subsurface water was made in all borings during drilling and is shown by a symbol on the Record of Foundation Explorations. (Plates 2-8 thru 2-11) Observation wells designated OW were installed in representative borings in the dam and in the impervious and random-pervious borrow areas. The level of the subsurface water at the damssite is generally at or just above the rock surface on the abutments becoming conformable with the river level in the valley section.

H. RESERVOIR LEAKAGE.

16. A permanent very low pool at elevation 305 is planned for purpose of wild-life conservation. Explorations at the damsite

indicate a semi-pervious to pervious foundation condition in the valley section. The embankment design provides for control of ~~excessive~~ under-seepage. A divide along Reardon Road northeast of the damsite will require a low dike to contain the reservoir at maximum flood pool. In the remaining portion of the reservoir, the valley sides inclosing the reservoir are higher than the maximum pool elevation and no undesirable seepage is anticipated.

I. CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

17. General. The presently proposed dam embankment design consists of an inclined upstream compacted impervious fill section with an upstream blanket and a compacted random fill downstream section. A shallow cut-off will be made through the upper more pervious materials in the valley section and will be taken to rock with a grout curtain in the abutment areas. A foundation drain is planned for the valley section in the downstream portion of the embankment.

18. Impervious Fill Material. A source of impervious material is being explored in a drumloidal shaped feature approximately 1.3 miles northwest of the damsite (See Plate 2-12, Area F). The material in this area consists of a glacial till deposit of compact gray to brown silty sand to silty gravelly sand 30 to 40 feet thick overlying a highly weathered and decomposed bedrock surface. The till is overlain by a variably thick outwash deposit from 5 to 10 feet thick and contains sand and silt lenses. Water levels measured during drilling average from 10 to 20 feet below the ground surface. More

reliable readings of the subsurface water levels will be obtained during reading of observation wells. Sufficient topographic relief is available to allow drainage of the area during borrow excavation.

19. Random Fill Material. Pervious and semi-pervious materials have been explored in the immediate vicinity of the dam and dike sites and are designated Areas A, B, C, and E on Plate 2-12.

20. Area A. A narrow undulating terrace deposit immediately upstream of the dam on the left abutment is comprised of variably thick deposits of sands and gravels adjacent to the river, grading to a silty outwash and glacial till at approximately elevation 325 on the valley wall. No water was encountered in test pits which were excavated to depths of approximately 10 feet.

21. Area B. A steep-sided kame feature immediately south of the damsite on the left abutment is comprised of sands and gravels to a thickness of 30 to 35 feet. The sinuous ridge-like relief of this feature indicates a crevasse filling which by mode of deposition will be of highly variable composition. The subsurface water level is conformable with the adjacent mill pond. Excavations will be limited by the water table and for reason that the feature forms an abutment of the existing dam.

22. Area C. A broad flat terrace immediately upstream of the town of West Thompson, 0.5 miles from the damsite, is comprised of an average thickness of about 10-feet of sands and

gravel overlying a fine sandy silt and silty sand. In this type of feature deposition of coarse material is usually thicker toward the face. The subsurface water level gently slopes toward the terrace face at a depth of 5 to 10 feet.

23. Area E. Immediately north of the dike site, a terrace remnant up to 30-feet thick comprised of stratified sands and gravel lies adjacent to a rock-controlled ridge forming the main valley wall. The subsurface water level in the terrace feature is at or below the bedrock surface.

24. Rockfill and Slope Protection. Suitable rock materials are available from required excavations in sufficient quantities to construct the presently planned zones of rockfill and slope protection. It is estimated that less than 10% of the rock excavations will be unsuitable for use due to weathering. The rock is generally hard and durable and is estimated to have a bulking value of 25% and an angle of internal friction of 40° . Trafficking of rockfills or stockpiling and rehandling will cause some reduction of the estimated bulking value.

25. Concrete Aggregate. An estimated quantity of 7,600 c.y. of concrete will be required for the conduit and spillway weirs and walls. Aggregate investigations and usage made in conjunction with other flood control projects in this area have determined that satisfactory materials are obtainable from commercial sources within a 25-mile haul distance. Complete data on testing of concrete aggregates will be contained in Design Memorandum No. 7 (Concrete Materials).

J. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The design of the project structures is being made giving full consideration to geologic data as it is developed. No problems of an unusual geologic nature have developed or are indicated at this stage of investigations. Explorations are in progress at the sites of the dike, highway relocation and borrow areas.

27. In accordance with established practice of this division, a digest of geologic factors pertinent to the design and construction of the project will be furnished to field construction personnel for information, guidance and instruction for the work. This digest will point out the availability of geology personnel for field consultation.

28. Sufficient earth materials will be available for construction of the embankments from required excavations and from borrow areas within 1.5 miles of the project. Required excavations should produce sufficient rock suitable for use as rockfill and for slope protection on the dam and dike.

29. Randomly oriented open jointing requires that consideration be given to this condition in design for uplift, anchorage, seepage control and rock excavations. Detailed examination of the borings and the results of pressure testing indicate an open condition in the rock which is most severe in the weathered zone in the upper 5 to 10 feet. Careful excavation should be made in the

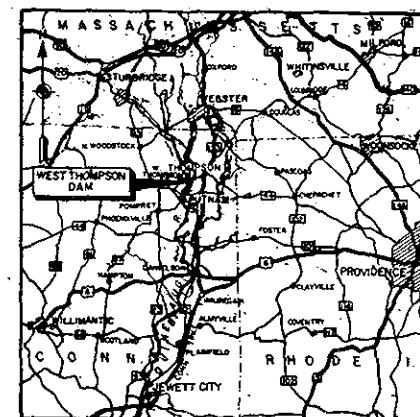
upper 10 to 15 feet if foundation grades are to be established in this depth range or steep slopes are to be maintained within or below. Intersecting joint planes and structural foliation will govern to a large degree the shape of structural excavation. In areas of open rock cut, it is considered practical to excavate the rock to slopes of 4 on 1 after removal of loose and weathered surface rock. Rock bolts will be used where applicable in areas of deep cuts to assist in stabilizing the slopes.

30. Line drilling will be effective in reducing overbreak. Where line drilling may be employed, such as at the spring line of the outlet works conduit, the drilling should originate 4 to 5 feet above the design spring line grade to give greater assurance of preserving the side rock below.

31. Anchoring of concrete walls in the side channel spillway will be most effective if the anchors are inclined to the east at an angle of 50° to the horizontal. Properly spaced and oriented drains in rock will effectively reduce hydrostatic pressures.

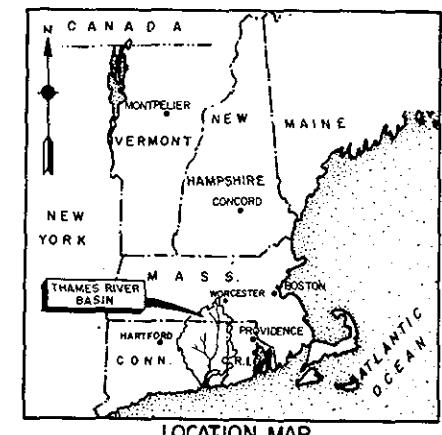
32. Where concrete structures on sound rock require the investigation of shearing resistance to horizontal movement, a coefficient of 0.6 is recommended.

33. Seepage control by use of a grout curtain will be made beneath the spillway weir around the outlet works and where the dam embankment is taken to rock in cut-off on the abutments.



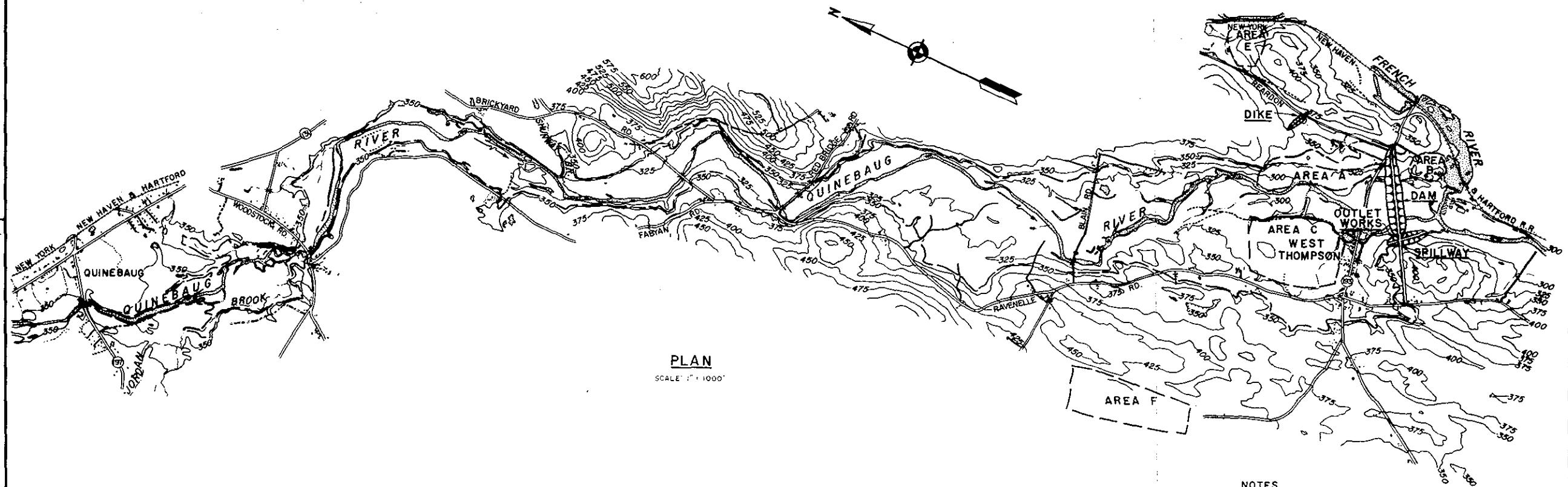
VICINITY MAP

SCALE 1" = 6 Miles



LOCATION MAP

SCALE 1" = 50 Miles



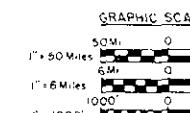
PLAN

SCALE 1" = 1000'

NOTES

Elevations refer to Mean Sea Level Datum
Area "F" Impervious Borrow Area
Areas "A", "B", "C" and "D" Random Borrow Areas

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, NEW ENGLAND CORPS OF ENGINEERS WALTHAM, MASS			
HEAD, GEOLOGY SECTION PROJECT ENGINEER			
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED CHIEF, FOR MATERIELS BRANCH			
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED CHIEF, P. & P. BRANCH			
APPROVED CHIEF, ENGINEERING DIVISION			
DATE JAN 1963			
SPEC. NO. ON ENR-78-016 DRAWING NUMBER			



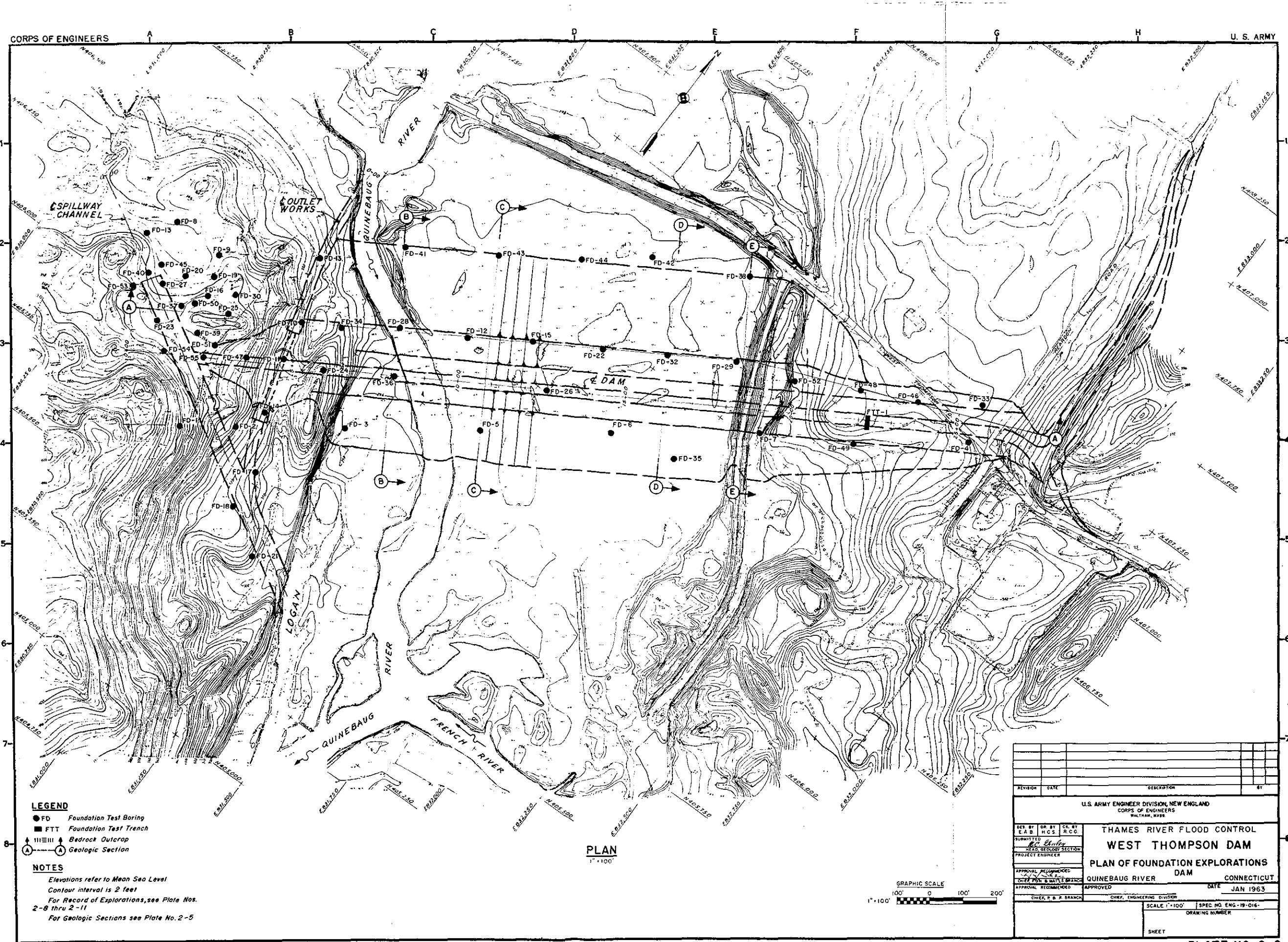
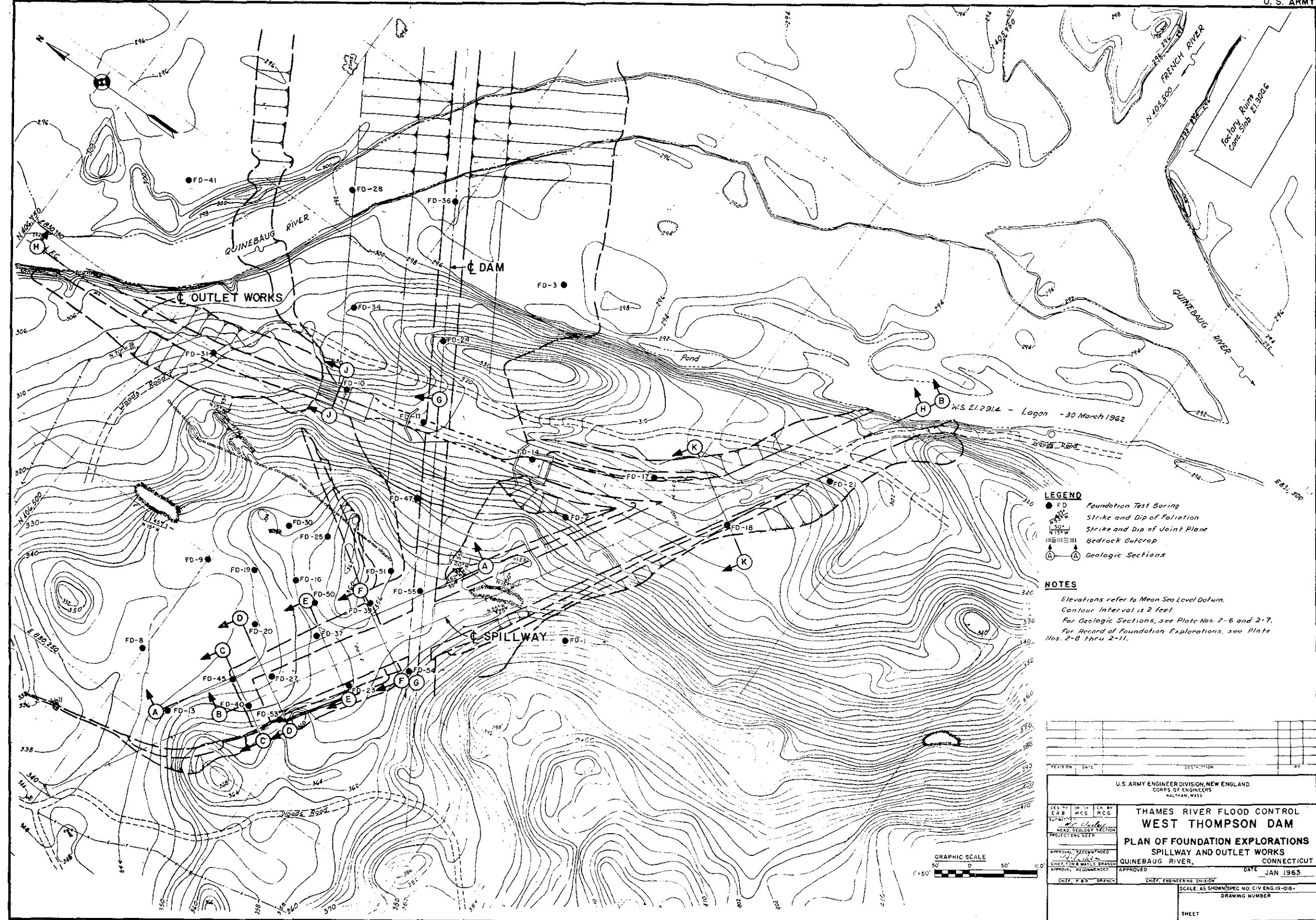
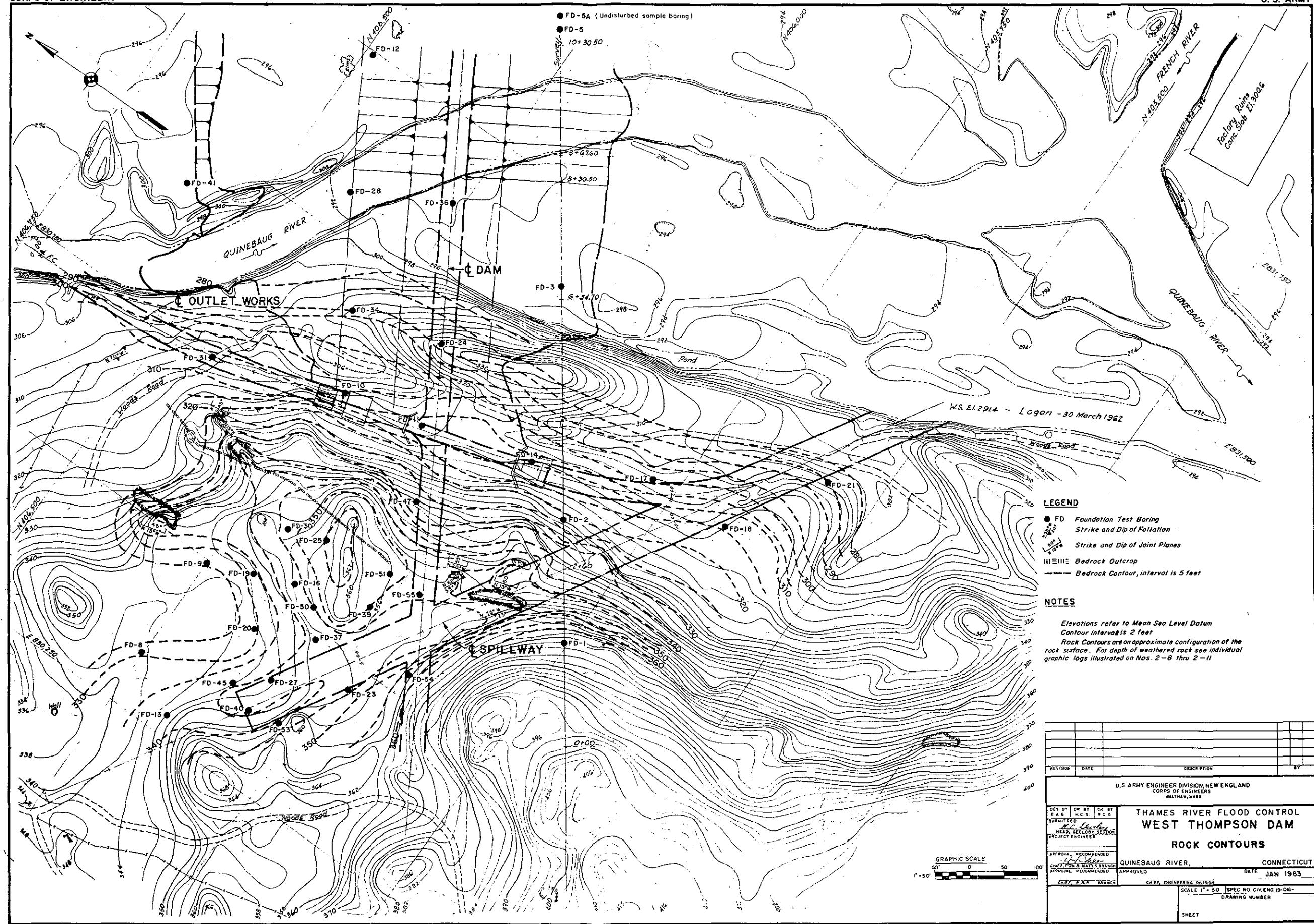
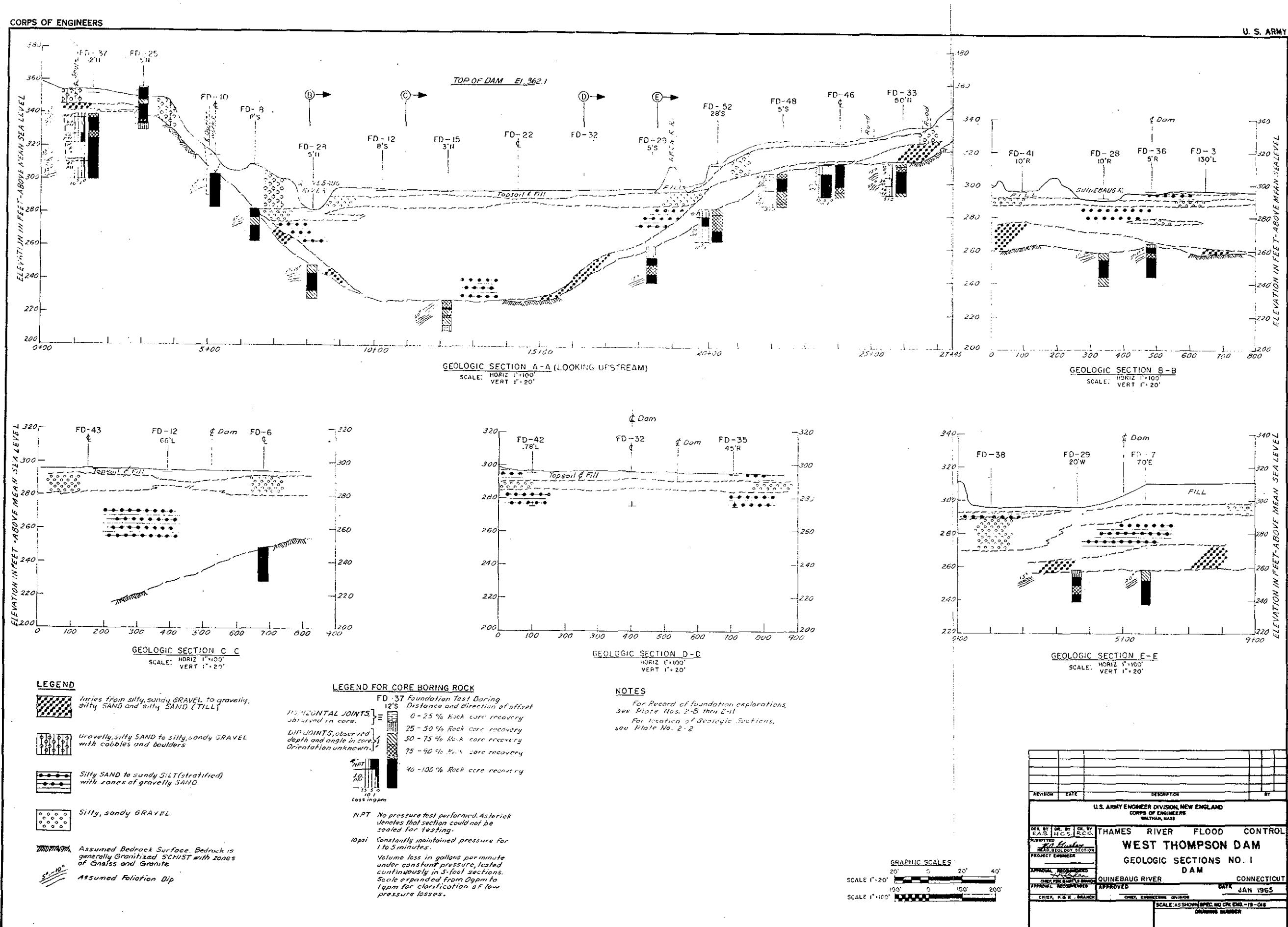


PLATE NO. 2-2

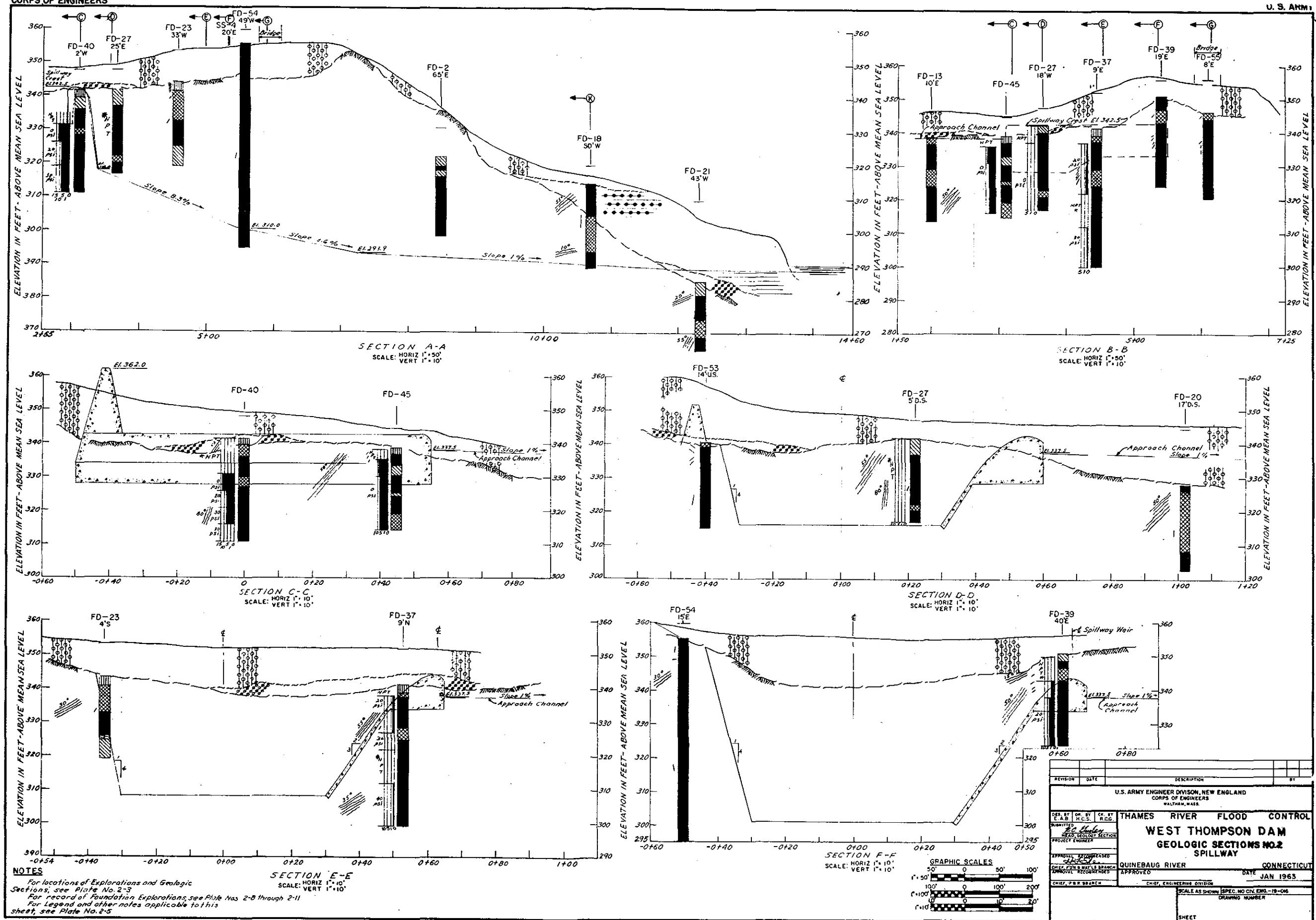


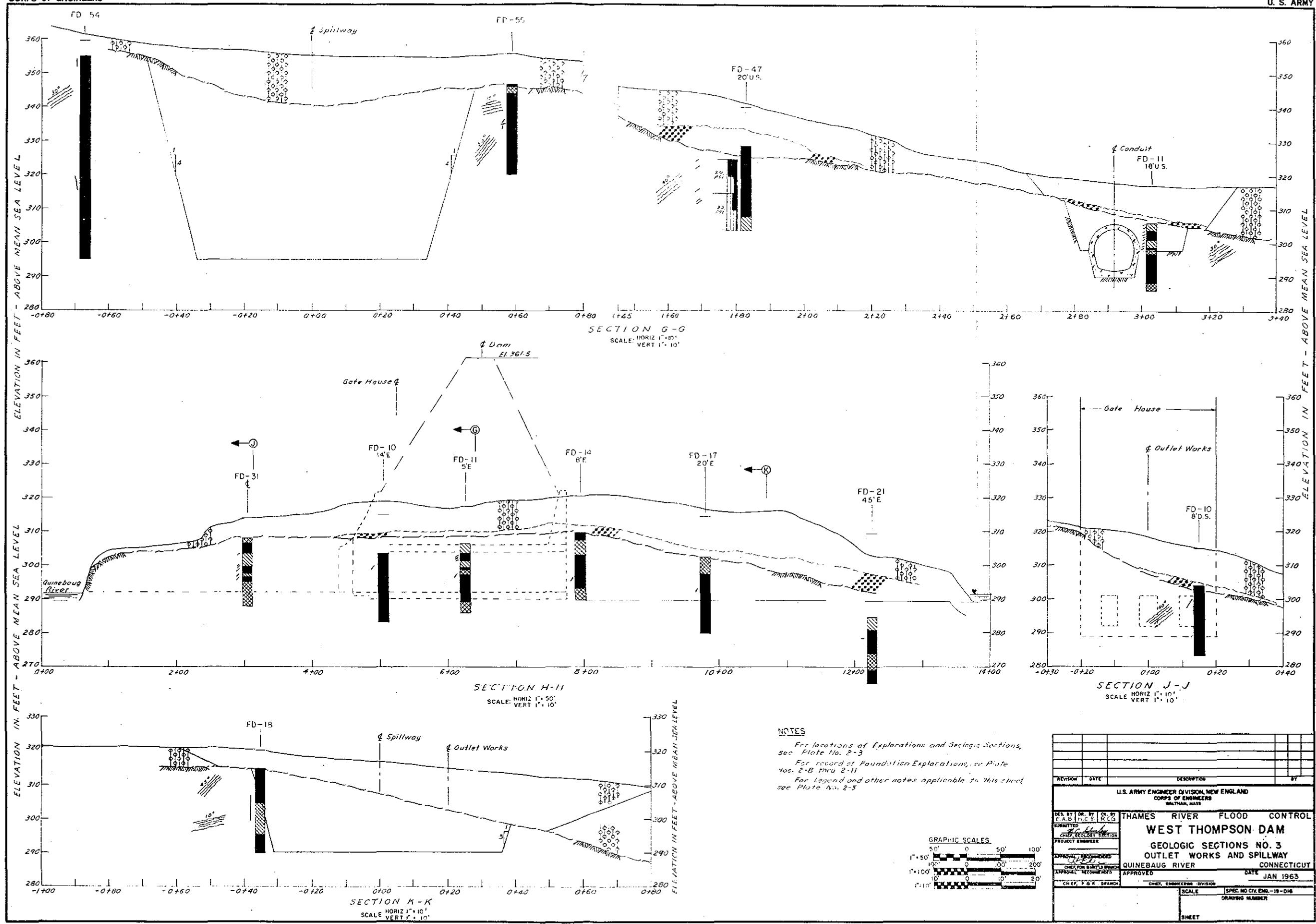


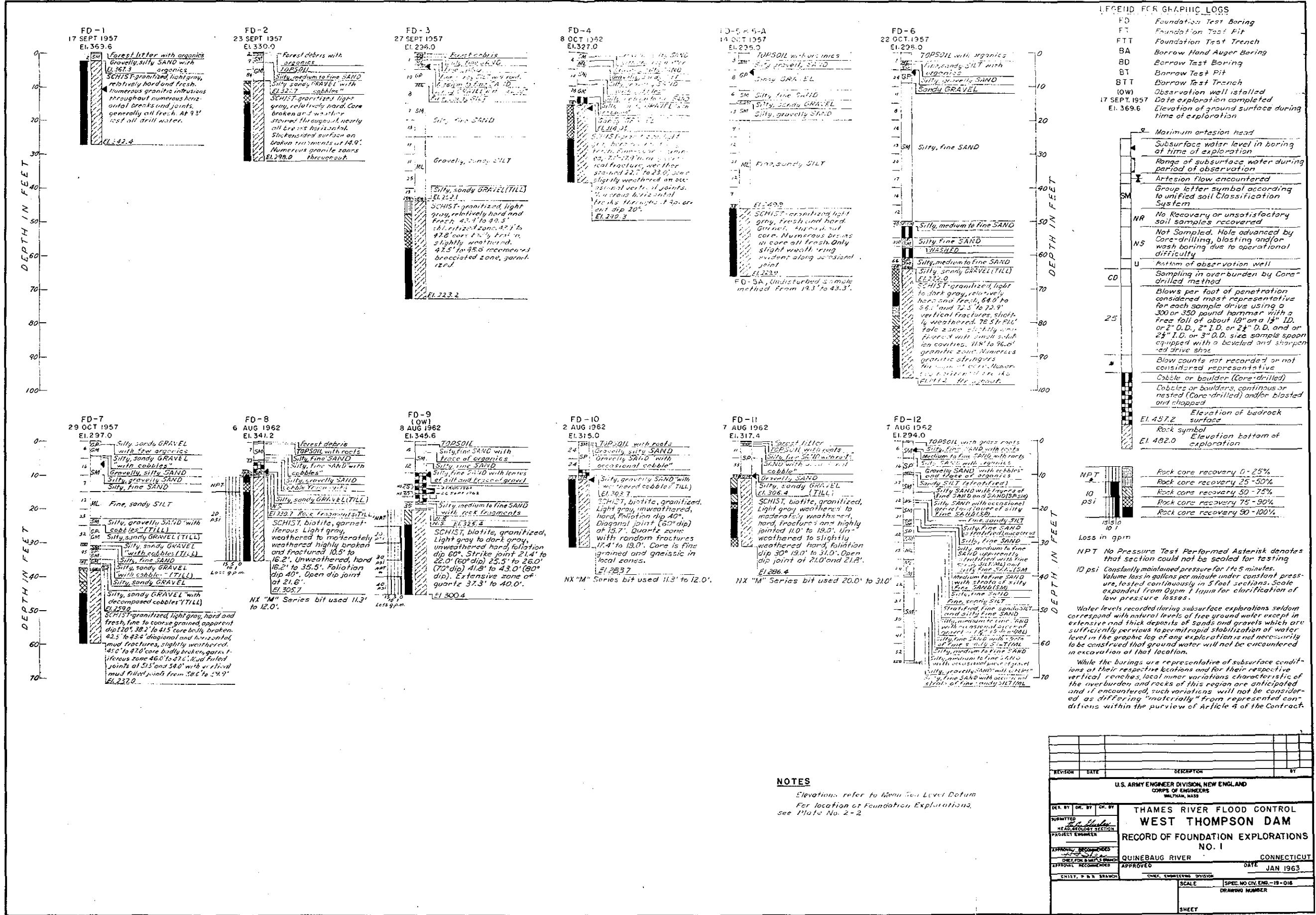


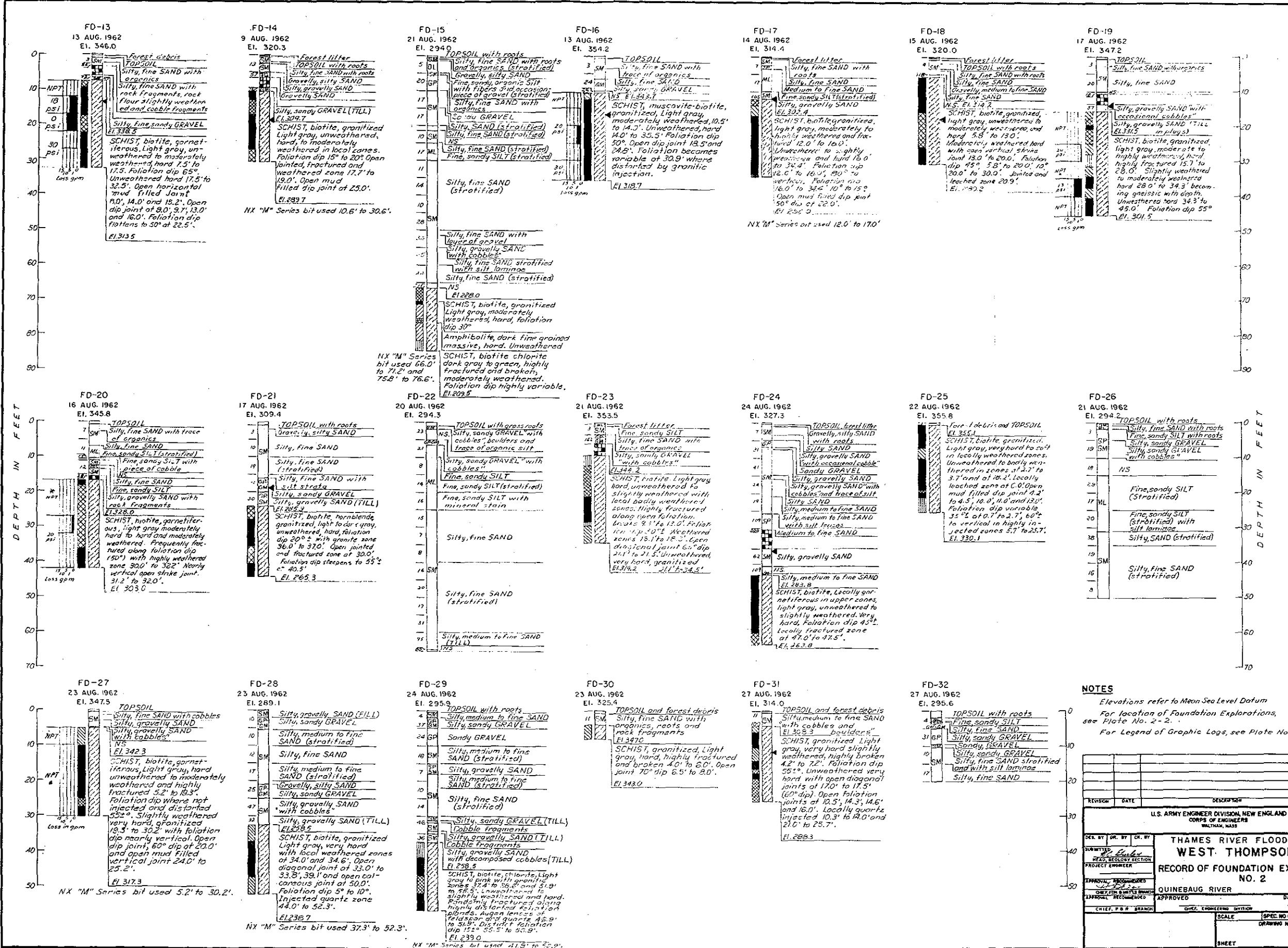
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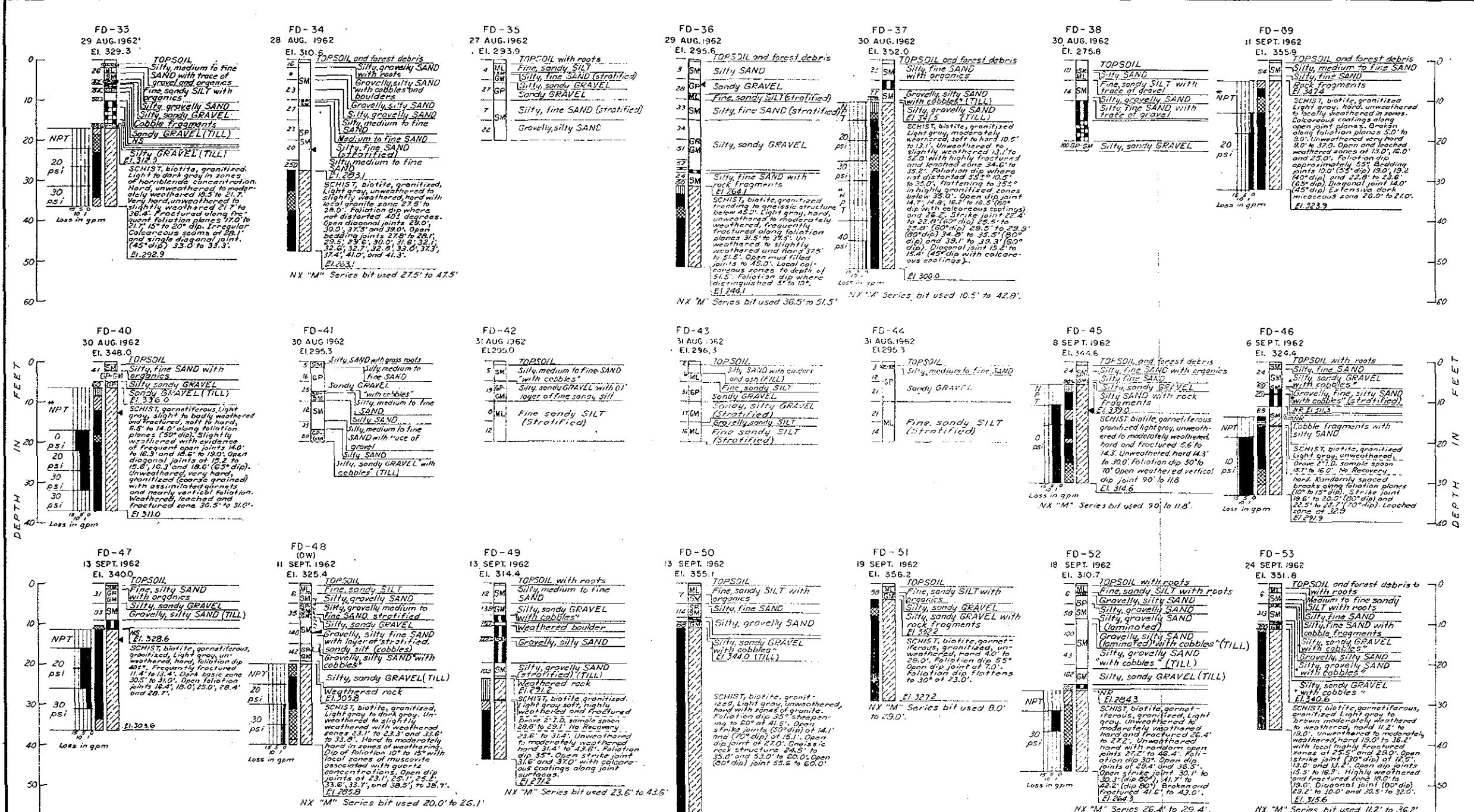
U. S. ARMY











NOTES

Elevations refer to Mean Sea Level Datum
For location of Foundation Explorations,
see Plate No. 2-2
For Legend of Graphic Logs, see Plate No. 2-8

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, NEW ENGLAND CORPS OF ENGINEERS WATERWAYS, WILMINGTON, MASS.			
DET. BY	DR. BY	CH. BY	
SUBMITTED <i>Geo. H. Miller</i> HEAD, GEOLOGY SECTION			
PROJECT ENGINEER			
APPROVAL REQUESTED <i>C. C. Ladd</i> CHIEF, GEOTECHNICAL BRANCH			
APPROVAL RECEIVED <i>C. C. Ladd</i> CHIEF, GEOTECHNICAL BRANCH			
APPROVED <i>C. C. Ladd</i> CHIEF, GEOTECHNICAL BRANCH			
DATE JAN 1963			
CHIEF, ENGINEERING DIVISION			
SCALE 1:250,000			
DRAWING NUMBER SHEET			

THAMES RIVER FLOOD CONTROL
WEST THOMPSON DAM

RECORD OF FOUNDATION EXPLORATIONS NO. 3

QUINEBAUG RIVER CONNECTICUT

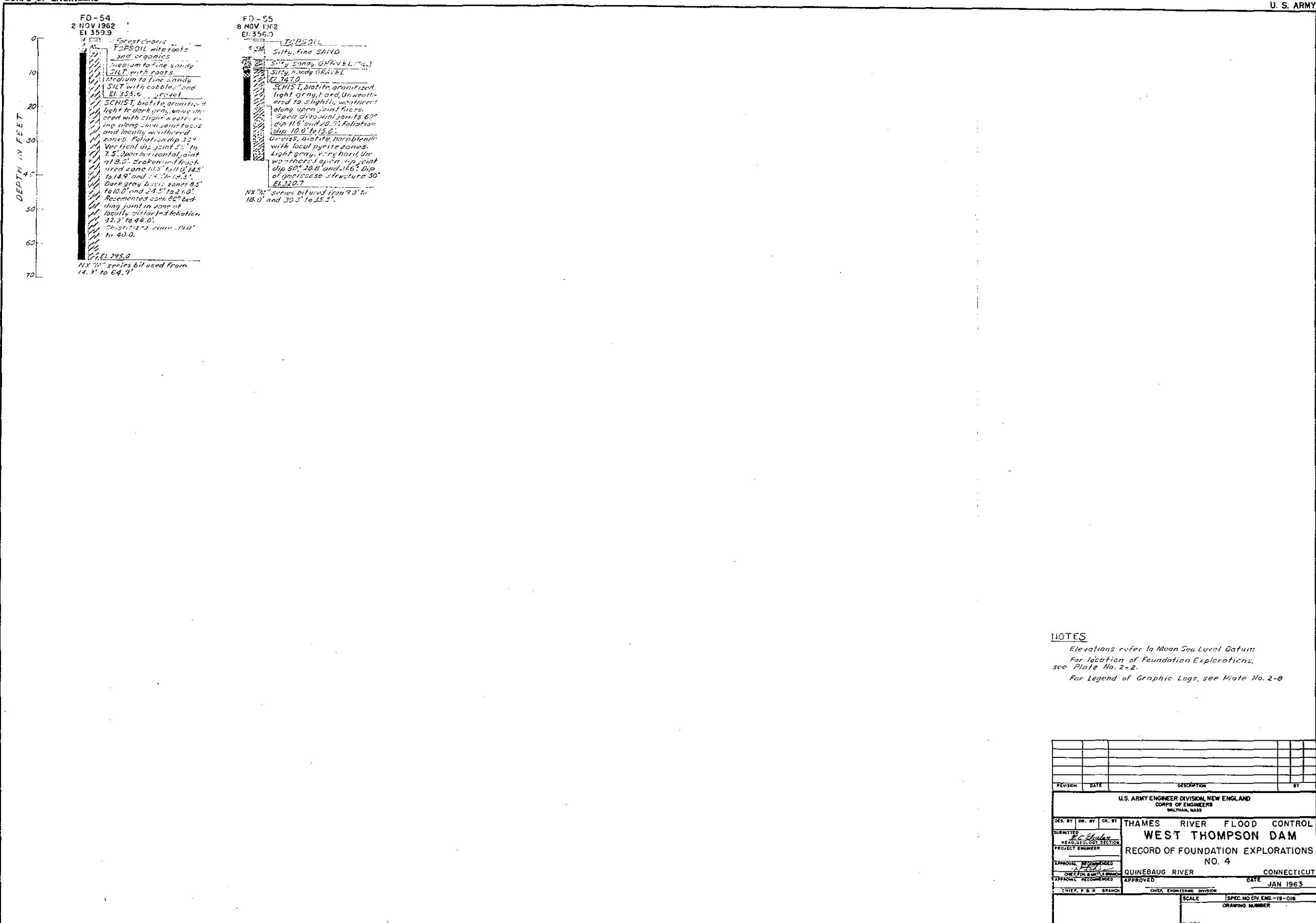
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REPLACES NO. 10, JAN 1963

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PLATE NO. 2-10



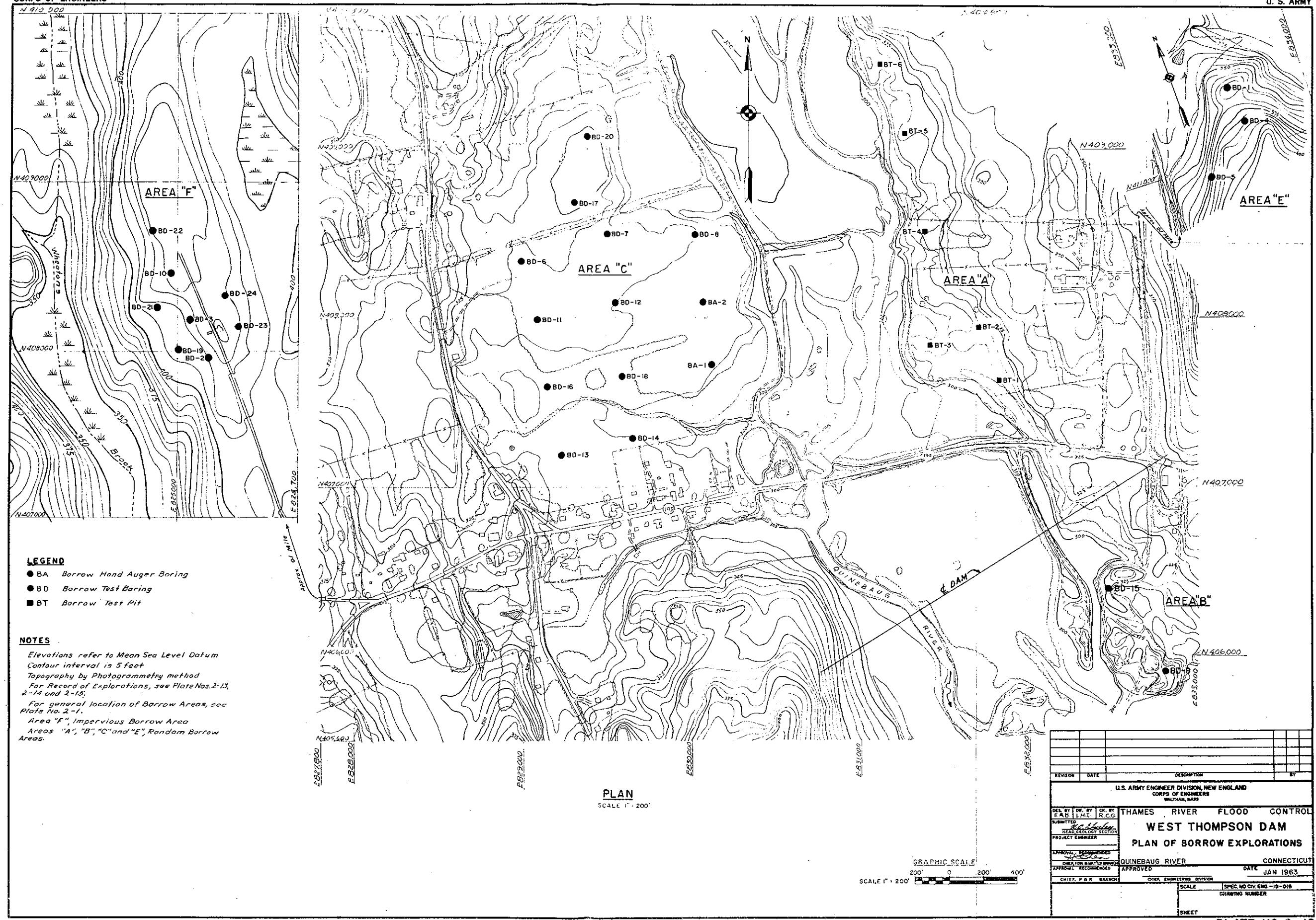
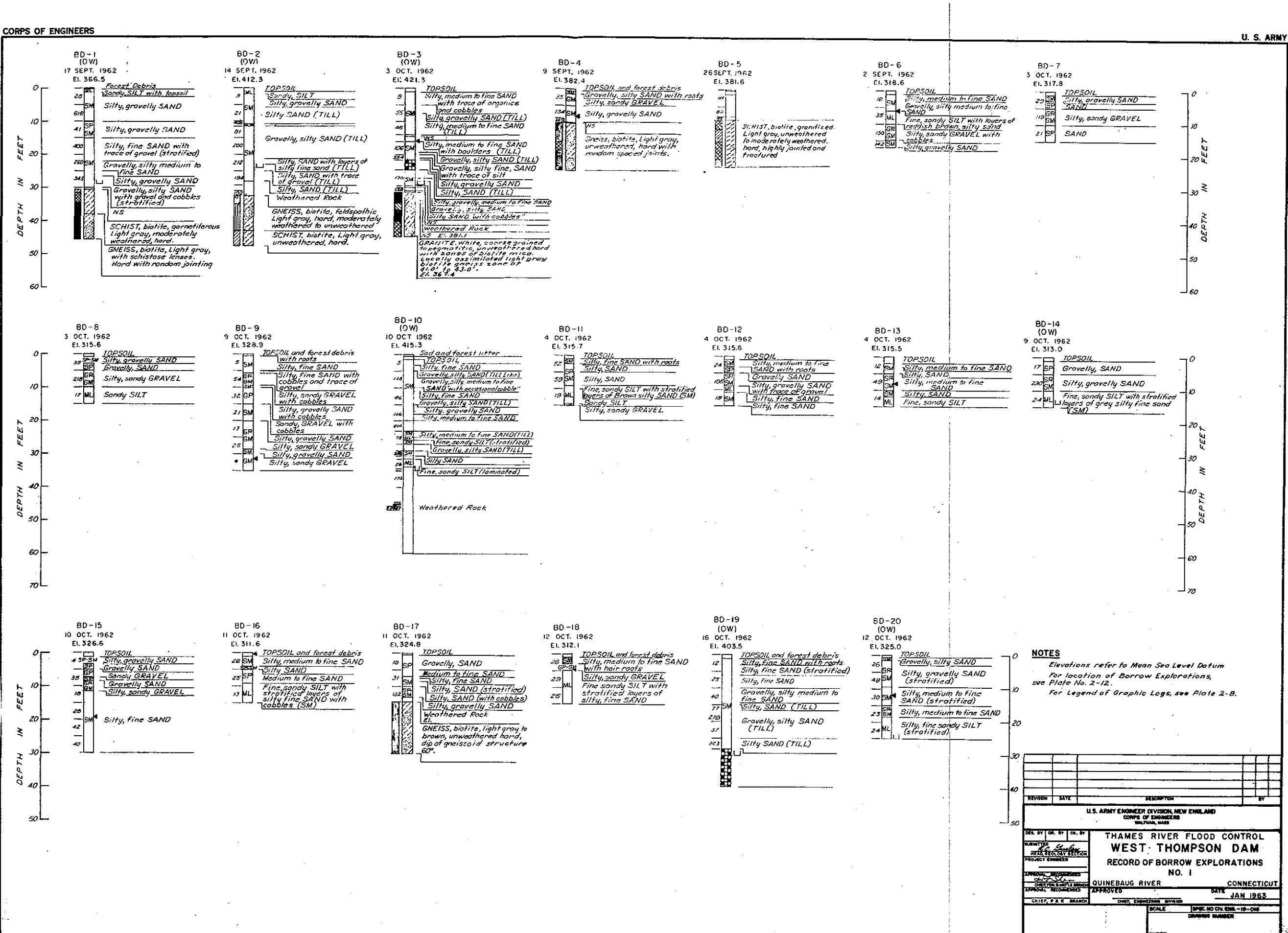
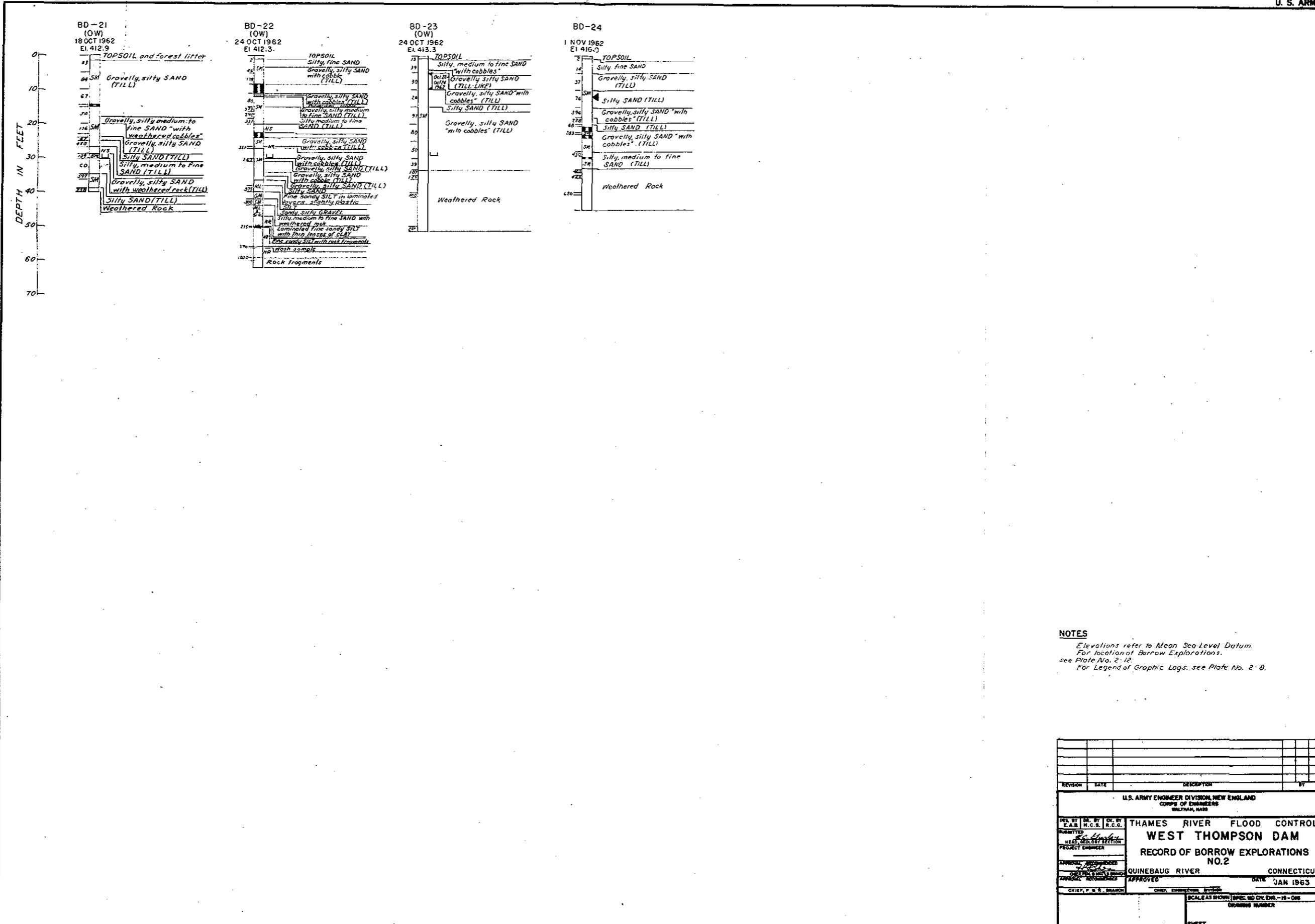
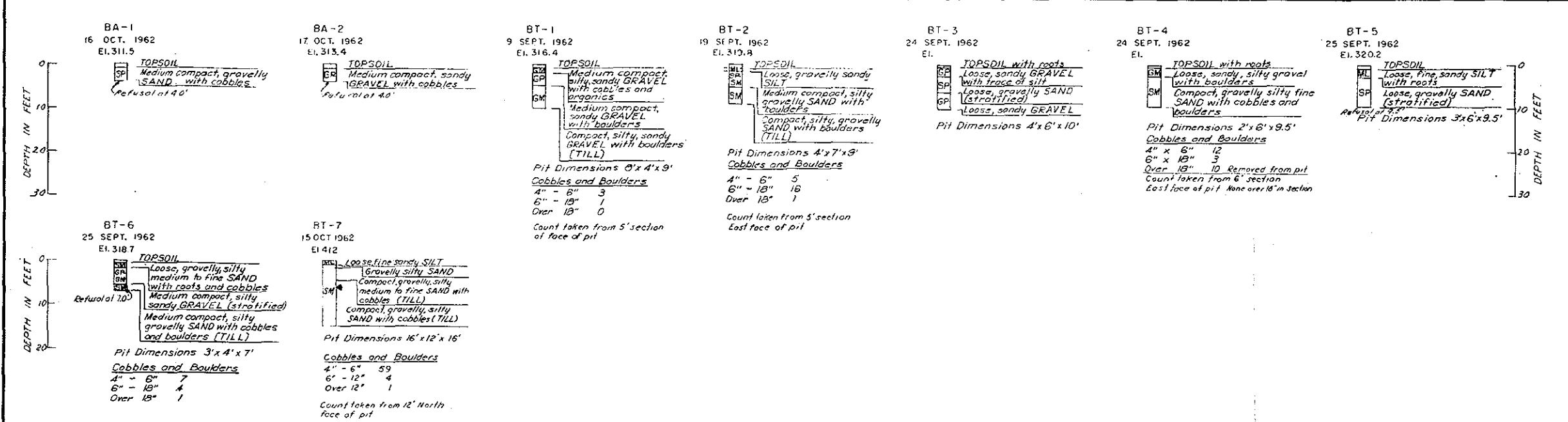


PLATE NO. 2-12

CORPS OF ENGINEERS







NOTES
 Elevations refer to Mean Sea Level Datum.
 For location of Borrow Explorations,
 see Plate No. 2-12
 For Legend of Graphic Logs, see Plate No. 2-8

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, NEW ENGLAND CORPS OF ENGINEERS WALTHAM, MASS			
DRAFTED BY: [Signature]		CHIEF, C.E. BRANCH	APPROVED
DRAWN BY: [Signature]		APPROVED	DATE: JAN 1963
CHECKED BY: [Signature]		CHIEF, ENGINEERING DIVISION	SCALE AS SHOWN (SPEC. NO. CIV. ENG.-19-048)
APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION BY: [Signature]		APPROVED	DRAWING NUMBER
SHEET			